

Last Thursday, 5/29/03, the nation's "balanced and objective" Media machine swarmed to another stage managed, White House PR event to herald the signing into law of the Republican's latest Tax Cut Scam that was bullied through Congress and sold to an ever more ill-informed public. Contrast that Pep Rally with the previous day's, virtually secret, Bill Signing Ceremony. The signing of that bill enacted the raising of our nation's debt limit by another TRILLION dollars, yet the Corporate Media Conglomerates who handsomely profit from their "stewardship" of the public's airwaves did not cover that proceeding. Though the fiscal irresponsibility of this administration is unprecedented in recent US history and will surely limit the ability of my two young sons to prosper in this nation's increasingly plundered economy, one has to pick through Business News shows on pay cable to see even oblique mention or debate of the potential consequences.

Another little story that's gone almost unnoticed in the mainstream media has been the stealthy, closed-door maneuvers of FCC Chairman, Michael Powell. Under the pretext of fulfilling a distorted interpretation of the Commission's congressional mandate, the Chairman has set the arbitrary date of June 2nd to make sweeping changes to rules governing limits to media ownership. He has indicated that he intends to reward the Big Media Lobbyists with deregulation similar to that awarded to owners of radio stations in the badly flawed Telecommunications Act of 1996. Since then, the radio dial has been monopolized by a few powerful owners who have reshaped a once diverse medium into an endless landscape of only that content that enhances synergistic opportunities for profit in their other businesses and promotes their pro-business political agendas. While some would consider it an exercise of free speech for two or three huge Broadcasting Companies, in control of more than half the nation's stations, to ban from their playlists the recordings of a hugely popular Musical Group for daring to exercise their free-speech rights, it is no less than a shocking violation of the long forgotten "public interest", for those same Broadcasters to use the public airwaves to organize a CD burning rally or to arrange a "spontaneous" demonstration in support of war, providing eye-catching banners and plenty of TV coverage by their network's TV operations.

The shady way in which this deadline was set and this process has been conducted has been conveniently overlooked by the very Media Conglomerates who will gain even more wealth and political influence if the proposed rules changes are enacted. The insistence upon keeping to this arbitrary deadline appears to be based on their fear that should this issue be given proper scrutiny, Americans will recognize the damaging aspects of the proposed changes and reject them.

I strongly urge you to use your position for the good of all Americans and reject this brazen assault on our democracy's fundamental need for the free exchange of information, ideas and viewpoints.

Most sincerely,

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